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SOURCE 1952 Jen-min Shou-ts'e, pp 35-38

## CHINESE LAND REFORM PROVIDES PEASANTS WITH TOOLS OF PRODUCTION

[Comment and Summary: This report is a summary of land reform progress in China from late 1950 to mid-1952. It was compiled by the publishers of the 1952 Jen-min Shou-t's'e (People's Handbook) from a number of newspaper and Hsin-hua She reports, as indicated in the text. The report gives a general survey of the progress of land reform throughout the country during the winter of 1950 - 1951 and describes the progress by regional areas from 1950 to 1952, including acreages and populations involved, implements, animals, grain, etc., confiscated and redistributed.]

I. NATIONAL SURVEY 1950 - 1951 (Hsin-hua She, 29 Jun 51)

From the promulgation of the Land Reform Law of the People's Republic of China in June 1950 to the spring season of May 1951, the land reform movement extended into newly liberated areas, affecting 128 million peasants in East China, South Central China, Northwest China, and Southwest China, four great administrative regions. This involved 60 million peasants in East China, which included 80 per cent of the hsiangs in the newly liberated areas of Shantung, North Kiangsu, South Kiangsu, South Anhwei and 80 per cent of North Anhwei and Chekiang hsiangs, as well as 36 per cent of the hsiangs in Fukien; approximately 50 million peasants in South and Central China, which included 12 million peasants in Honan, 8,500,000 in Hupeh, 14 million in Hunan, 9 million in Kiangsi, 4 million in Kwangtung, 2,100,000 in Kwangsi; about 7,300,000 peasants in Northwest China, which included 6,800,000 in Shensi, 400,000 in Kansu (Ch'ing-yang Special Administrative District only), and 90,000 in Ningxia (Yen-ch'i and Ning-shuo hsiens); about 11 million peasants in Southwest China, including 3 million in East Szechuan, 600,000 in West

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Szechwan, 3 million in South Szechwan, 4 million in North Szechwan, 300,000 in Sikang, (Lu-shan, Ya-an, and Hsi-ch'ang hsiens), 250,000 in Kweichow (eight ch'us in seven hsiens), and 80,000 in Yunnan (nine hsiangs in Kunming and Pao-shan hsiens).

From winter 1951 to spring 1952, land reform was continued in various parts of the country, and a re-examination was undertaken in areas where it had been completed.

## II. REGIONAL SURVEY 1951 - 1952

### East China (Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 8 Dec 51)

In East China, 11 hsiens and parts of 63 others, with a total of 5,403 hsiangs, failed to carry out land reform in the 1950 - 1951 campaign. On 19 November 1951, the fourth conference of the East China Military and Political Committee was held. Jao Shu-shih, the chairman of the conference urged the members to complete land reform early in East China. He said that for land reform to be finished as soon as possible, land deeds should be granted, property rights fixed in the land distribution areas, and the peasant masses should be spurred on in the areas where land reform had not been entirely completed. To complete land reform by spring 1952, past land reform experience should be fully utilized in the areas where it had not yet begun.

In East China in December 1951, more than 39,000 hsiangs (ts'un), representing 90 per cent of the total hsiangs in this area, had completed their task of land distribution. Among them, more than 23,000 hsiangs (ts'un) effected land reform and received land deeds. More than 12,000 hsiangs were still to accomplish this and to receive land deeds.

To gather a good harvest, peasants revised their production plans and used more labor and fertilizer on their land in the areas where land reform was completed.

About 10 per cent of the total number of hsiangs and ts'un in East China had not completed the land reform program. This included mountain and coastal areas of Chekiang and Fukien, as well as the formerly flooded area of North Anhwei, Shantung, and North Kiangsu. Land reform was extended into these areas with such favorable results that completion in March 1952 was predicted. (Central People's Broadcasting Station, 29 December 1951).

Land reform on an experimental basis in the suburban areas of Shanghai was initiated in the middle of December 1950 and completed 11½ months later, at the end of November 1951. After land reform was completed, with the abolition of the feudal system of land ownership, basic changes were made in the suburban areas. The productivity of suburban land was increased and a positive and patriotic spirit fostered. During the course of land reform, more than 184,100 mou of land, including 173,900 mou of arable land, 8,160 dwellings, 135 cows, more than 15,000 farm tools, 343,800 catties of grain, and 55,540 articles of furniture were confiscated or requisitioned. More than 1,486 mou of unoccupied, uncultivated, and arable land owned by aliens was also taken over. All the confiscated and returned land was nationalized and usage rights allocated to peasants having little or no land. The abolition of the feudal system resulted in a tremendous increase in the productivity of land.

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At the same time, the completion of suburban land reform had favorable effects on urban reconstruction, as well as on industrial and commercial development, which the feudal system had hampered. For example, a landlord in the Hsin-ching area collected 43 piculs of grain per year as rent for the leasing of 13 mou of land to an enterpriser who used it for a factory. After the abolition of the feudal system, the land was nationalized and devoted to the requirements of urban reconstruction and industrial and commercial development. According to incomplete statistics, 105 units, including 18 industrial and commercial firms, were given rights to use land amounting to 3,277 mou; 201 private and public units, including 29 industrial and commercial firms, were given rights on state-owned land amounting to 3,300 mou. The completion of the suburban land reform had favorable effects on the economic reconstruction of Shanghai.

Central and South China (Hankou, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 9 Dec 51 and 5 Feb 52)

From winter 1950 to spring 1951, land distribution was completed in an area with a population of 68 million, to which was added by summer of the same year an area with 12 million population. In addition, 69 million mou of land, 784,000 cows, 3,700,000,000 catties of grain (which, added to past confiscations, made a total of 5 billion catties), 9 million room units of dwellings, and more than 12 million farm tools were confiscated or requisitioned. The new land system was carried out for the benefit of the peasants. According to a study of four provinces and 16 hsiens, in which the amount of land per capita was taken as 100, the new land distribution, after land reform, showed the following: the average farmer landlord had 80, the poor, hired peasants, 90; the middle peasant, 110; and the rich peasant, 130-150. This is in accord with the Communist Party policy abolishing feudalism, giving every landlord an opportunity to reform by labor, freeing every poor peasant from poverty and thereby improving the living standards, protecting the middle peasants, and preserving rich peasantry. This has completely changed the rural economic structure and paved the way for increasing farm production. In this new economic environment, a new political democracy, a new cultural and educational system, a new public morality, and new leaders are emerging.

This was the first time that peasants could use their land to work for themselves and to develop production with the understanding that their interests and the national interests are one. This guarantees progress toward prosperity for the whole rural society. It shows the peasants how to assume responsibility in the development of industrialization. In 1951, agricultural production was increased by 10 per cent with the help of campaigns under the following slogans: "Resist the US and Aid Korea," "Contribute Arms," "Contribute to Public Grain Collections," "Sell Cotton," "Reconstruct and Repair the Huai Ho," and "Prevent Floods and Drought"; all of these objectives were realized satisfactorily. This indicates further achievements to come.

To date, an area with 60 million peasants has not yet been included in the land distribution. It is planned, from winter 1951 to spring 1952, to distribute land in an area with 50 million population. In the meantime, there will be an examination of the land situation and issuance of land deeds in the areas where land distribution was completed.

Since December 1951, the peasant movement has developed in an area with a population of 50 million, where land distribution is to take place and also in an area with a population of 60 million, where reinvestigation of land reform is scheduled. By February 1952, land distribution work was completed in an area with a population of 16 million and reinvestigation, in an area with a population of 10 million.

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Northwest China (Sian, Chun-chung Jih-pao, 19 Mar 51; Hsin-hua She, 28 May 51; Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, 5 May 52)

From winter 1950 to spring 1951, land reform was undertaken and completed in 3,017 hsiangs in Northwest China, involving important agricultural areas and including the well-known cotton and wheat region of Kuan-chung. Peasants who had little or no land obtained 3 mou each and the feudal system was completely broken up. More than one million mou of land, 30,000 farm animals, and 200,000 farm tools were confiscated or expropriated. Because peasants received land and supplies, their patriotism and productivity were enhanced.

From the winter of 1951 to date, land reform has been completed in 4,362 hsiangs of Northwest China, and this constituted 72.6 per cent of the original land reform plan. Included were 1,435 hsiangs in Shensi, 2,374 in Kansu, 324 in Ningsia, and 231 in Tsinghai. Land reform will be completed in the middle of May in An-k'ang, Nan-cheng, Ping-liang, Ting-si, and T'ien-shui special administrative areas, and in the mountain areas of Ling-wu in Ningsia, totaling 1,498 hsiangs. Moreover, land reform will be undertaken after the fall wheat harvest season in 24 hsiangs in the Ch'in-ling area, 78 hsiangs in the An-k'ang mountain area in Shensi, and 38 hsiangs in Kansu. Except for Sinkiang, land reform has been achieved in all provinces and in one municipality.

The land reform movement has put an end to the feudal system and laid the basis for satisfying the demand of peasants for land. From the winter of 1951 to the spring of 1952, some 10-12 million peasants obtained land and other farm supplies in Northwest China.

Land reform began on 11 November 1950 and ended on 23 January 1951 in the western suburban area of Sian (12 ch'us). It began after the Administrative Council promulgated the Suburban Land Reform Regulations. It was carried out successfully and with little deviation because of the reduction of rents, the campaign against bandits, and experience gained in land reform of the suburban areas of Tientsin and Peiping. In this reform, 7,164.2 mou of land under feudal ownership, 4,031 farm tools, 46 farm animals, 216 room units of dwellings, and 41,800 catties of grain were confiscated or requisitioned in the western suburbs of Sian. These were equitably distributed to 1,894 families who had had little or no land or other property. This has substantially met the needs of the poor peasants and farm laborers. At the same time, landlords with little or no remaining income received an equal share of land and farm implements so that they might reform themselves through labor.

Southwest China (Chungking, Hsin-hua Jih-pao, 20 Oct 51, 10 May 52)

Land reform in Southwest China was undertaken after a campaign against bandits and despots and a campaign for rent reduction and mortgage cancellation. It was launched according to well-prepared plans and in an orderly manner after the decision to speed up land reform was made at the second meeting of the Southwest China Military and Political Committee. The first phase of land reform lasted from January and February 1951 to the end of April and the beginning of May 1951. The second phase lasted from June 1951 to the end of September 1951. Thus, land reform was completed in the entire area of 67 hsiangs and in a part of the area of 134 hsiangs and the suburbs of 6 cities. This affected 4,392 hsiangs, amounting to 29.52 per cent of the total number of hsiangs in this area, with a population of 35 million.

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The third phase of land reform has been successfully concluded. The three phases affected an area with 74,315,489 peasants, or 82.17 per cent of the total population of Southwest China. The first phase, including the experimental period, began in November 1950 and ended in April 1951. The second phase was from May 1951 to October 1951 and the third phase, from the middle of October 1951 to May 1952. Land reform was completed in an area with 259 hsiens, 9 cities, and 12,165 hsiangs. However, land reform has not been carried out in an area with 142 hsiens and three cities in Yunnan and Kweichow provinces. This area (not including Tibet) has about 16,120,000 people or 17.8 per cent of the total population of Southwest China. Land reform will be completed in the winter of 1952, with the exception of the area occupied by the national minorities, where it is not to be applied. So we may conclude that the historical mission of abolishing the feudal system and the landlord class has been achieved in Southwest China.

In the areas where land reform has been completed, 30-40 per cent of the total rural population participated in the peasants' associations, with a total membership of 25 million. As a result, the strength of the people's militia has been greatly increased.

### III. FARM POPULATION AFFECTED BY LAND REFORM

	<u>Land Reform Completed before Spring 1950</u>	<u>Land Reform Completed from Winter 1950 to Spring 1951</u>	<u>Land Reform Completed from Summer 1951 to 1952</u>
North	60,000,000	--	--
Northwest	1,800,000	7,300,000	15,400,000
Northeast	33,000,000	--	--
East	45,000,000	60,000,000	17,500,000
South Central	17,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000
Southwest	--	11,000,000	62,000,000
Total	156,800,000	128,300,000	144,900,000

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